

TRAFFIC BOARD MEETING 999
Minutes
Mayor's Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall
Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Call to Order. Called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

Traffic Board Member Present: Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; William Yeager, Assistant Police Chief; Jonathan W. Yeager, First Deputy Commissioner DPW Commissioner)

Traffic Board Members Absent: Bill Berg, Council person

Also Present: Katherine Davis, Principal Clerk; Cyndi Paddick, BTMS, Dave Petryszyn, BPD; Bill Lescault, BPD; Dan Correll, retired BPD Officer; Leigh McCullen, Planning

Approval of Minutes. Request to approve the minutes from Traffic Board Meeting 997, held on Thursday, August 21, 2014, due to absence of board members who were present at August meeting to approve the minutes. **Hold until November meeting.**

Approval of Minutes. Request to approve the minutes from Traffic Board Meeting 998, held on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

Moved by W. Yeager, seconded by Kraham

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-1)

Ayes: Kraham, W. Yeager, J. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: Berg

ITEMS CONSIDERED

Washington Street and Hawley Street. Intersection pedestrian walk light. Gary Holmes absent. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Back-in Parking on Court Street. This item will be held until a traffic and parking study is conducted by the city. **Hold until study is complete.**

Chenango and West State Streets. Ms. Paddick reported that they did a walking audit on various streets and found that there were problems at this location. After a committee met and walked around this area, Ms. Paddick reported the following findings: Areas have been paved over city sidewalks, overgrown shrubs and roots are causing the walkways to buckle, etc. A report with photos will be provided and presented to the city. Mr. Correll noted that there is a PVC pipe near the CVS on State Street should be removed and the signs going into the Binghamton Plaza need to be replaced.

Leroy and Front Streets Traffic Light. Hold and re-evaluate for January. **Hold until January 2015 meeting.**

351 Front Street. At the August Traffic Board meeting, Ms. McCullen presented the applicant's proposal for constructing an addition to the existing building which is currently operating a towing, auto repair and car rental business. They need Traffic Board approval for an 80 foot curb cut variance. Motion for approval of an 80 foot curb cut variance on Franklin Street was approved at August meeting. Traffic will look into this further and report back. **Hold until Thursday, Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Holiday Inn-Downtown Trailblazer sign. Traffic recommends the following:

The Traffic Division, in following up on a July 17, 2014 Traffic Board Meeting request from Robert Green, General Manager, Holiday Inn Arena Hotel 2-8 Hawley St. regarding posting of two directional signs for guest exiting Route 17 at Front Street to that location, was in contact Loraine Arrow, Real Estate Officer, NYS DOT, Region 9. Mr. Green was originally advised that he needed the City of Binghamton's approval for such signage as it was on a city street. This information appeared inaccurate as Front Street is a NYS, Route, 11; highway and Two Rivers Hotel already had a NYS trail blazer sign posted on it for directions to their location. After securing and completing the proper paper work again, Holiday Inn- Arena trail blazer signs were approved NYS DOT for the following two original locations:

*NYS Route 17 east exit 72 on to Route 11 directing motorist south.
225 Front Street directing motorist south.*

(The second location would be a shared posting with Two Rivers Hotel logo on a NYS blue and white informational background signage.

*However, Holiday Inn requested a third sign to their request adjacent and in front of the Two Rivers Hotel. This may be due to the fact that Two Rivers Hotel posting at 225 Front Street did indicate a left turn arrow ahead, next to its logo. This location of the third sign would require City approval as it is on a city street without a state route sharing its passage. The Traffic Division would recommend that the Traffic Board deny this location request as an inappropriate and competitive. It would however suggest that a more appropriate location be on the west side of Front Street in advance of Court Street, south bound, with a left turn arrow indicated next to its logo on the state information sign and that a straight ahead arrow be placed next to its logo on the state information sign at 225 Front Street after approval from NYS DOT. **Action item complete.***

100 Chenango Place. Ms. Paddick reported that there should be a more visible sign placed at this location and the crosswalks should be painted so they are more visible as well. Traffic will look into and report back **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Chenango Street and Eldridge Street Intersection. A large building on the west side of Eldridge Street makes it very difficult for motorists to see oncoming traffic from the north side. A request was made to install a "No Turn on Red" sign at this corner to avoid any potential accidents. Mr. Kraham reported that he personally noticed this safety hazard and suggests that Traffic look into matter. Traffic will look into this matter and see if there have been any accidents at this intersection and report back. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Beethoven Street and Leroy Street Accidents. Mr. Kraham suggested that after the Riverside Drive construction is completed, Traffic Board should look at this intersection again. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

224 Main Street. Ms. McCullen reported that Catholic Charities is expanding their parking lot to the east and would like to request a new curb cut onto Main Street. They would also like to remove the current crosswalk and realign it with the new curb cut. It will be ADA compliant. Ms. Paddick requested that Mr. Cullen ask Catholic Charities if they will align the new crosswalk with the opposite curb cut.

Motion to insert a curb cut at 224 Main Street.

Moved by W. Yeager, seconded by J. Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-1)

Ayes: Kraham, W. Yeager, J. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: Berg

480 Conklin Avenue. McIntosh Lab is requesting a curb cut onto Conklin Avenue. Traffic Board has some concerns about the amount of traffic on Conklin Avenue and the speed of cars in this area. Traffic Board also wants to know if this is necessary and why they want the curb cut at this location. Ms. McCullen will discuss these questions with the vendor and report back to Traffic Board. After a traffic study has been conducted this will be reviewed again. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

200 S. Washington. Mr. Berg is concerned about the deer crossing in this area. Mr. J Yeager will look into matter. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Greenway Crossing-Court Street. Ms. Paddick reported that this was looked at previously and brought up to Traffic Board. She and Traffic looked into this and there are still concerns because it would be a mid block crosswalk. Due to flooding it is hard for people to walk under the street to the other side. Also, people with bicycles have a hard time as well. Mr. Correll is concerned about the visibility of pedestrians to motorists because there is slight incline in the road. The biggest concern is how busy Court Street is at this location. Also, there is a bike lane which could cause problems as well. Ms. Paddick suggested putting up fencing so that people cannot cross at this location. **Traffic recommends the following:**

The Traffic Division received a request from Traffic Board Chairman Jared Kraham at the July, 2014, Traffic Board meeting to review the pedestrian walking infrastructure at the intersection of Chenango and West State Street and the entrance to the Binghamton Plaza (K-Mart entrance). The request appears to be a concern with pedestrians crossing the street at that location and then once across the street access to the businesses which are on the far side of the plaza. The first concern may be due to the lack of pedestrian (cross/don't cross) controls at that location. A study to determine if they are warranted would have to be conducted over a period of time. If they are warranted for the intersection then a budget line item would have to be created and then purchased. If it is not warranted then the existing structure appears to be adequate as those crosswalks are in place and pedestrians would have to obey the traffic signals for that area.

The second concern would appear to be a plaza management issue, as this is private property. Once the pedestrians crossed the intersection from the east side of the street to the west side and enter the plaza property there is no walkways of designated pedestrian lanes. This issue would affect not only the pedestrians entering the plaza but also motorist parking their vehicles in the parking area and then walking to the businesses. The only other obvious issue would be the lack of a sidewalk on the west side of the street parallel to West State Street. An engineer study would have to be done to determine the public access to that side of the street and then installed if indeed there is a city right of way along that curb line. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Front Street and Main Street Corner. Ms. Leslie Dahlgren posed a safety issue at the corner of Front and Main. There are three lanes approaching the Court Street Bridge, but there is no left turn arrow. She claims there are numerous "close-calls" due to confusion by drivers as to who has the right of way. People start to make their turn, while other cars continue going straight toward JC. It looks like there was an arrow there at one point, but it's been covered over with a black shroud. J. Yeager will look into this and report back at the November meeting. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Chapman Street. Nikki Keane of Rutherford Street, a neighbor and NAC member would like to see if the left hand turn could return to Chapman Street from Court Street. The issue is when the BMets have games, the large flow of traffic goes to the next intersection by the bridge and the old NYSEG building. The traffic bottleneck occurs at the left hand turn from the stop sign by the Moose Club when turning left onto Hendry Street. With cars coming from the underpass and turning right onto Henry Street, the traffic backup is to Court Street. While at the Moose Club, Nikki and club members have seen several near misses. The opening of Chapman Street to the left hand turn from Court Street might alleviate the issue. Ms. Paddick stated that this is a state signal and DOT should be notified. Traffic will look into this and report back in November. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

North Street and Murray Street Intersection. Traffic reported the following.

The Traffic Division received a copy of a correspondence from a Denise Buckland, 20 North Street addressed to the Administrative Office of the Chief of Police on October 22, 2014 regarding the necessity of a traffic control device at the intersection of North and Murray Streets, and due to its placement, its contribution to motor vehicle accidents at that location. Ms. Buckland feels that the traffic control device, a flashing yellow warning light for east-west traffic on North Street and a flashing red stop light for north-south traffic on Murray Street is misinterpreted. She indicates that motorist on North Street sometimes stop for the yellow flasher and when they do, the motorist stopped on Murray Street for the red flasher proceed into the intersection, and thus are in collision with either the stopped vehicle which now goes or the on-coming traffic from the opposite direction on North Street.

Upon responding to this intersection to review the complaint Traffic Division P.O. William Lescault, Retired Traffic Sgt. Daniel Correll and Director Cynthia Paddick (BMTS) feel that the light may be unnecessary. North Street is a through street and there appears to be no need for a yellow flash for east-west traffic. Murray Street, north and south bound besides being controlled with the red flash are also posted and controlled with stop signs for their directions of travel, which should alleviate the need for the red flash.

Also, a review of the motor vehicle accidents at that intersection by the Traffic Division for the previous three years as indicates the following number of incidents as follows:

2012 – 4

2013 - 2

2014 - 3.

Of those accidents for those years only one was contributed to a vehicle slowing down for the flashing yellow light and that vehicle was struck from behind by a second vehicle. All the other incidents involved were parked vehicle struck by another vehicle (2), turning into a driveway without yielding (1), sharp turn cutting off another vehicle (1), and failure to obey a traffic control device by not stopping for the stop sign /red flashing light (4). Of those incidents all the vehicles that were the violators were travelling north on Murray Street and all of the involved non-violator vehicles were heading east on North Street.

The traffic review by BMTS and the Traffic Division suggest that there is no need for the traffic light in that area and that they could be removed. The posted Stop signs are sufficient for traffic control.

The pine trees on the southwest corner of North and Murray should be looked at because they cause a line of sight problem. Traffic will look further into this and report back in November. **Hold this portion until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Motion to remove the traffic light at the intersection of North Street and Murray Street.

Moved by W. Yeager, seconded by J. Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-1)

Ayes: Kraham, W. Yeager, J. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: Berg

254 Robinson Street. The Fairview Church would like a sign put up at Broad and Robinson. If they are already getting a state sign then the city does not need to put an additional sign just down the street. Traffic will look into this further and report back at the November meeting. **Hold until Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

Moved by J. seconded by W. Yeager

Motion carried. (Vote 3-0-1)

Ayes: Kraham, J. Yeager, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: Berg